

The "A Pages"

Within the Department of Finance, the content of the "Governor's Budget Summary" is commonly referred to as the "A Pages." The origin of this term lies in the budget "highlights" which used to be contained in the Governor's Budget prior to the late 1970s and which is now included in the "Governor's Budget Summary."

Formerly, up until the late '70s, these highlights were located in the front of the main budget volume and page numbered as A-1, A-2, etc. Hence, the reference was made to the "A Pages." These highlight pages included the Governor's Budget message, the Director of Finance's message, and narrative and tabular information on significant expenditure, revenue, and program issues. Located at the end of the budget were detailed summary schedules of expenditures, revenues, and fund conditions. These pages were numbered as B-1, B-2, etc., and were referred to as the "B pages."

Beginning in 1979-80, the "Governor's Budget Summary" was published as a separate document accompanying the introduction of the main budget volume (departmental presentations) on or before January 10. The information in the summary volume was also included in the main volume for a number of years. However, the "Governor's Budget Summary" has become an increasingly important document, both in terms of being an informative public policy statement and a technical budget document. Increased focus on this volume has resulted from write-ups emphasizing significant initiatives, major issues and policy decisions, new budget schedules, and the addition of a glossary and information on the budget process. With this increased focus and use of the "Governor's Budget Summary," the former "A Pages" and "B Pages" have been deleted from the main volume(s).

Each year, the Budget Operations Support (BOS) Unit coordinates the preparation and updating of the information to be included in the "Governor's Budget Summary." The Capitol Office executive staff develops or directs the development of the narrative of the Governor's policy objectives, significant initiatives, and major fiscal issues. Budget units prepare the sections on California's economic condition, significant revenue and expenditure write-ups, and major proposals for departments. In some cases, agency or departmental personnel may contribute to the narrative presentation. BOS prepares most of the fiscal summary schedules and tables.

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